



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
08.04.2015 Bulletin 2015/15

(51) Int Cl.:
A47K 3/04 (2006.01) **A47K 3/30** (2006.01)
A47K 3/08 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
02.10.2013 Bulletin 2013/40

(21) Application number: **13161696.3**

(22) Date of filing: **28.03.2013**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO
PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
Designated Extension States:
BA ME

- **Carswell, Dane**
Hatboro, PA 19040 (US)
- **Finch, John**
Livonia, MI 48152 (US)
- **Parikh, Nirav**
Sylvania, OH 43560 (US)
- **Doigan, Lloyd**
Franklin, MI 48025 (US)

(30) Priority: **30.03.2012 US 201213435856**

(71) Applicant: **Masco Bath Corporation**
Morrestown, NJ 08057 (US)

(74) Representative: **Croston, David**
Withers & Rogers LLP
4 More London Riverside
London
SE1 2AU (GB)

(72) Inventors:
• **Geels, Michael**
Jackson, TN 38305 (US)

(54) **Multi-piece bathing structure surround and method**

(57) A surround includes a first piece including a basin, a second piece having a second piece back wall and a second piece side wall attaching to the second piece back wall for being disposed horizontally atop the first piece, and a third piece having a third piece back wall and a third piece side wall attaching to the third piece back wall for being disposed horizontally atop the second

piece back wall and the second piece side wall, wherein the first piece, the second piece and the third piece form a package wherein one of the second piece or the third piece is disposed about the basin and an other of the second piece or the third piece nests behind the one of the second piece or the third piece.

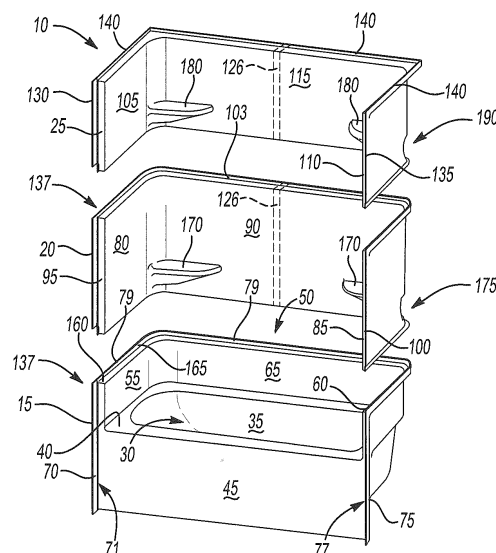


Fig-1A



PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention.
This report shall be considered, for the purposes of
subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

EP 13 16 1696

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
| X | US 3 382 635 A (LAWRENCE O'GARA VENARD ET AL) 14 May 1968 (1968-05-14) | 1-3,6-8 | INV. A47K3/04 A47K3/30 A47K3/08 |
| Y | * claims; figures 10,11,16,17,18,19 * | 4,5 | |
| X | US 6 691 339 B1 (THOMAS BRENT [US]) 17 February 2004 (2004-02-17) | 1 | |
| Y | * claims; figures * | 4,5 | |
| A | | 6,8,9 | |
| X | EP 1 402 807 A2 (AQUA GLASS CORP [US]) 31 March 2004 (2004-03-31) | 1,6,8,9 | |
| A | * claims; figures * | 4,5 | |
| X | US 2005/210577 A1 (SISK THOMAS J [CA]) 29 September 2005 (2005-09-29) | 1,6 | |
| Y | * claims; figures * | | |
| X | US 4 901 380 A (SMITH IAIN M [CA]) 20 February 1990 (1990-02-20) | 1,6 | |
| X | CA 1 157 602 A1 (MIROLIN IND INC) 29 November 1983 (1983-11-29) | 1 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |
| A | * claims; figures * | 2,3,6,8 | A47K |
| INCOMPLETE SEARCH | | | |
| <p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC so that only a partial search (R.62a, 63) has been carried out.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p> | | | |
| Place of search | | Date of completion of the search | Examiner |
| The Hague | | 26 February 2015 | Fordham, Alan |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04E07)



INCOMPLETE SEARCH SHEET C

Application Number

EP 13 16 1696

Claim(s) completely searchable:

1, 2, 4, 6, 8

Claim(s) searched incompletely:

3, 5, 7, 9

Claim(s) not searched:

10-19

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Rule 62a EPC

Independent method claims 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are interrelated in a manner which does not fall within any of the three exceptions mentioned in Rule 43(2) EPC. In particular:

with respect to exception (a):

the claims are directed to methods, not products;

with respect to exception (b):

the claims do not describe different uses of the same product but instead describe different stages in its manufacture, packaging, shipping and installation, the use of the product being always the same - i.e. the formation of a "bathing surround"; and

with respect to exception (c):

the respective problem addressed by each of the claims is different: i.e. how to package a surround, how to assemble a surround, how to ship a surround, how to manufacture a surround and how to minimize the size of a container containing a surround. Even if some of these problems might be considered to overlap, their claimed solutions are not alternative solutions to the same problem.

Rule 63 EPC

Each of claims 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 contains an excessive number of variants, making it unduly burdensome to determine the matter for which protection is sought: see Examination Guidelines F-IV, 5, 8th and 9th sentences and second sub-paragraph.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 13 16 1696

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-02-2015

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|----|---------------------|--|--|
| US 3382635 | A | 14-05-1968 | NONE | |
| US 6691339 | B1 | 17-02-2004 | CA 2435583 A1 EP 1400197 A2 US 6691339 B1 | 18-03-2004 24-03-2004 17-02-2004 |
| EP 1402807 | A2 | 31-03-2004 | CA 2435588 A1 EP 1402807 A2 US 2004060836 A1 | 30-03-2004 31-03-2004 01-04-2004 |
| US 2005210577 | A1 | 29-09-2005 | CA 2467605 A1 CA 2715101 A1 US 2005210577 A1 US 2010017955 A1 | 26-09-2005 26-09-2005 29-09-2005 28-01-2010 |
| US 4901380 | A | 20-02-1990 | CA 2008570 A1 US 4901380 A | 30-07-1990 20-02-1990 |
| CA 1157602 | A1 | 29-11-1983 | NONE | |